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*History of plague case No. 121, at Concord, Cal.*SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *March 10, 1904.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

Washington, D. C.

(Through medical officer in command.)

SIR: I have the honor to state that in accordance with your directions I visited Concord, Cal., on February 29 for the purpose of conferring with Doctor Neff relative to a case of suspected bubonic plague. The patient (an Irish-American woman) died about fifteen minutes after my arrival. She was taken ill on February 24 in the morning, her first symptoms being a marked vertigo with slight nausea. In the afternoon of the same day she noticed a painful swelling in the left axilla. On the morning of the 25th she had a well-marked rigor, with subsequent temperature registering 105° F., and it was at this time that Doctor Neff was called to see the case. The temperature subsequently ran an irregular course. There were headache, nausea, and vomiting, great depression, and on the 28th the patient (a woman 39 years old) was delivered of a viable fœtus, of about the sixth or seventh month. At the time of my visit I found her moribund, pulse almost imperceptible, respirations irregular, breath of a character suggestive of pulmonary œdema, scleræ very much injected, face cyanotic, with other symptoms of rapidly approaching dissolution. There was no history of pneumonia. About 11 o'clock p. m. I returned with the undertaker, who had been employed to embalm the body, and obtained permission to examine the body sufficiently to make a diagnosis, promising, however, not to mutilate in the sense of performing a necropsy. I had no difficulty in removing a considerable mass of enlarged lymph nodes from the left axilla, which, grossly, were very characteristic, and could hardly be mistaken for any condition other than that suspected by the attending physician. Smears from these nodes made in Doctor Neff's office gave typical pest-like bacilli, and cultures made from these nodes give an organism which, in so far as I have pursued the investigation, behaves in a manner identical with that of *B. pestis*, and I have no doubt confirmation will be completed within a few days. I informed the undertaker of the provisional diagnosis, and he very readily acquiesced in my suggestion that he should take extraordinary precautions in his handling of the body, including the wearing of rubber gloves and the burning of such fabrics as might be soiled by contact. I also cautioned the members of the family, giving such instructions as I thought were necessary for their protection, as also did Doctor Neff. I returned immediately to San Francisco, informing Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue of the conditions, in order that proper steps might be taken for the disposal of the case.

Respectfully,

B. J. LLOYD, *Assistant Surgeon.**Disinfection of vessels at San Francisco on account of tuberculosis.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Stimpson reports, March 5, as follows:

Quarters previously occupied by patients suffering from tuberculosis on the following vessels were disinfected during the month of February, 1904, in accordance with Department Circular No. 15, dated February 11, 1902: Steamers *St. Helena*, disinfected February 3,

1904; *San Pedro*, February 10, 1904; *Surprise*, February 14, 1904; *Alameda*, February 17, 1904 (by ship's surgeon).

Report from Nogales, Ariz.—Smallpox reported present in Sonora, Mexico.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gustetter reports, March 9, as follows:

A physician of Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, has informed me that there are 8 cases of smallpox in that town, which is 60 miles from here, on the Sonora railroad.

It has also been reported that there are numerous cases of smallpox in La Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. La Cananea is distant about 75 miles from here by wagon road.

Transactions on account of yellow fever at Laredo, Tex.

The following telegram has been received from Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick, at Laredo, Tex.:

Summary report for week ended March 12: Fumigated at Lomapieta, Tordillo, Minera, and points between, 79 houses, containing 135 rooms. Ranch owners around Cactus request fumigation, therefore request authority to ship by rail heavy materials to this point.

Suspect yellow-fever case at Laredo.

LAREDO, TEX., *March 14, 1904.*

WYMAN, *Washington:*

Nonimmune person is certainly somewhat suspicious and is seriously ill, isolated. I think the case is a secondary one. If I can will see if urine contains albumin. Shall have consultation and will advise you of results.

FRICK.

Suspect yellow-fever case confirmed.

LAREDO, TEX., *March 15, 1904.*

WYMAN, *Washington:*

Have had a consultation with attending and army camp physicians. Urine contains albumin and casts. Diagnosis confirmed. Have been unable to absolutely trace infection.

FRICK.

NOTE.—It is not yet determined whether this case was imported or not. All precautions taken. Case was immediately isolated and screened.

INSPECTION SERVICE, MEXICAN BORDER.

Inspection at Eagle Pass, Tex.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hume reports, March 5, as follows:

	Two weeks ended March 5.
Persons inspected	565
Persons held	0
Pullman cars fumigated	14